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Mankato, MN. 56001-3138  
April 23, 1999

1374 '99 APR 28 A10:04

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

**Re: Docket No. 98N-1038, Irradiation of Food,  
Processing and Handling of Food**

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to tell you NOT to remove the labeling requirements for irradiated foods. We want to see the radura clearly on the packaging of any irradiated food or displayed prominently when whole foods, such as produce or fruits, have been irradiated. We also want the word "irradiated" or "treated with radiation" to be clearly visible. Do not allow substituting something like "pasteurized" which could confuse a process that is totally different from irradiation. We urge the FDA to insist on **truth in labeling!** As consumers we believe that we have a right to be aware of, without any confusion, whether or not product we are purchasing has been irradiated.

We know that you think irradiation is safe. We also know that irradiation produces radiolytic products which have not been tested for safety in human consumption. Are **all the possible by-products** of this process even known, much less tested? We urge you to retain labeling so that it will be possible to adequately assess the public health effects of this process if it comes into widespread use.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

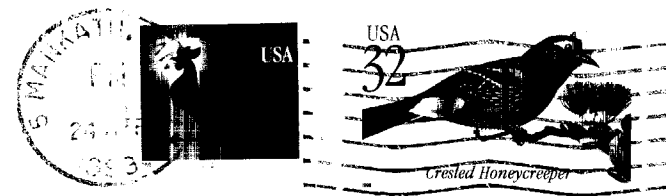
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20237-0001

